

# 7. Adaptive Management

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Adaptive management is a fundamental concept of CALFED. For the Levee Program, adaptive management is in part a philosophical approach toward implementing some Levee Program actions in that it acknowledges that a better understanding of Levee Program issues is needed to succeed in program implementation. Adaptive management is also a structured decision-making process that includes monitoring, research, staged implementation of the program; a feedback process to integrate knowledge gained from monitoring and research; and the flexibility to change the program in response to new information. Under adaptive management, actions are designed, at least in part, to provide new information about the system. Areas where the adaptive management approach will be especially useful in Levee Program implementation include seismic risk assessment, subsidence, and levee and ecosystem restoration coordination. All of these issues are components of the CMARP (refer to later discussion of the CMARP under “Monitoring and Research”).

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Adaptive management also may be relevant in institutional arrangements and funding scenarios for levee construction and maintenance. For example, the Levee Program will use information gained from observing the successes and shortcomings of the current Delta Levee Subventions and Special Projects Programs to develop funding and administrative scenarios for levee maintenance and construction covered under the Levee Program. As conditions change in the Delta and more is learned about the system and how it responds to program actions, these actions may be adjusted to ensure that Levee Program objectives are met and the solution is durable.

